



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department
Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick
Press Release**

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**GOVERNOR PATRICK DISCUSSES ROLE OF
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN CREATING
STRONG GLOBAL ECONOMY**

MONTREAL – Friday, October 11, 2013 – As part of his *Massachusetts-Canada Innovation Partnership Mission*, Governor Deval Patrick today spoke to members of the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations about the importance of international collaboration.

“Massachusetts is home to a globally recognized creative economy and talent pool,” said Governor Patrick. “In order to maintain our competitive edge, we must strengthen our global relationships and show the world everything Massachusetts has to offer.”

Governor Patrick’s remarks underscored the important connection between Massachusetts and Canada, which are already significant trading partners, and what the two can gain from a stronger economic partnership. Approximately 20,000 Massachusetts residents work for Canadian-owned companies and over 160,000 jobs in the state are dependent on trade with Canada. Through July 2013, the Commonwealth’s exports to Canada have increased by more than five percent over the same period last year. In 2012, Over 2,200 Canadian students attended Massachusetts colleges and universities, the fourth largest contingent of international students in the state.

The *Massachusetts-Canada Innovation Partnership Mission* will build on those successes by strengthening the relationships between the leaders in the Massachusetts and Canadian industries and promoting Massachusetts as one of the top centers for innovation in the world.

“Massachusetts is a global hub for innovation, and we want to keep it that way,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki. “To maintain our competitive edge and continued economic prosperity, we must actively work to deepen our connection with other international centers of innovation, including Montreal. During this mission, we have strengthened our bond with our Canadian counterparts and have identified many new opportunities for further collaboration.”

The Montreal Council on Foreign Relations (MCFR) is a non-profit, non-partisan, private organization established in Montreal in 1985. The MCFR’s mission is to promote greater

knowledge of international affairs and, through its events and partnership, to encourage closer cooperation between the various entities that share an interest in international matters.

Through the Administration's strategic investments in education, innovation and infrastructure, the Commonwealth has emerged as a leader in the global innovation economy and as a top international supercluster in the life sciences, biotech and clean energy sectors.

From October 8-11, Governor Patrick is leading a delegation of the Commonwealth's government leaders on the *Massachusetts-Canada Innovation Partnership Mission* to strengthen the state's partnership with Canada and expand opportunities between the two for economic development and job creation in the clean-tech, innovation, digital health, financial services, digital gaming, life sciences and academic sectors. Canada is the Commonwealth's largest export partner. Last year, Massachusetts exported approximately \$3.5 billion in goods and services to Canada, and the two-way exchange was \$11.1 billion in 2012.

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